



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Navajo Nation Council Summer Horse and Bike Ride set to begin**

**WINDOW ROCK** – Each summer, members of the Navajo Nation Council participate in Council’s “Summer Horse and Bike Ride” to promote causes such as health awareness/wellness, domestic violence awareness, and also to honor previous Navajo leaders prior to the start of the Summer Council Session.

Delegates will join local leaders and community members from various parts of the Navajo Nation in horse and bike rides to pay tribute and to honor the practice of past leaders who once rode on horses from their homes to the Council’s regular sessions. Along the way, the leaders would listen to the concerns of the people in their communities. When they convened for council sessions, they were well-informed and able to address the concerns of the people.

“In honoring our past leaders, this event also presents the opportunity for Navajo people to interact directly with their leaders and to have their voices heard,” said Speaker Pro Tem LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland).

Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) will lead a group of horse riders from the Eastern Navajo Agency, beginning on July 14 at Mount Taylor, N.M.

“I am honored to be a part of this event once again and I look forward to the face-to-face time with my constituents,” said Delegate Yazzie. “It is very important that we hear their concerns and advocate for their issues.”

Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) will participate in “Tour de Rez” which is a week-long bike ride beginning in Navajo Mountain on July 15.

“We welcome Navajo youth to participate in the Tour de Rez bike ride,” said Delegate Nez. “Along the way we will have several discussions with the participants and bring their concerns before the Council on the first day of the summer session—it really is about empowering our Navajo youth.”

In addition to the bike ride, a horse ride is also scheduled to begin on July 13 in Navajo Mountain.

Unfortunately, this year’s “3rd Annual Riding in Siih Hasin for Healthier Sustainable Communities” will be postponed, according to Council Delegate Elmer Begay (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone).

Although the bike ride is postponed, the activities associated with the event will take place including a men's health fair, health fair presentations, a 10-mile run, and a youth conference.

Each of the various horse and bike riders will meet at the fairgrounds in Window Rock on July 20 and proceed to the Council Chamber the following morning to mark the start of the Summer Council Session, scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, July, 21.

For more information regarding the events, you may contact the Office of the Speaker at (928) 871-7160 or by email at [nnlb.communications@gmail.com](mailto:nnlb.communications@gmail.com).

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